



Date: December 18, 2018

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Bill Judge, Interim Director of Transportation
Subject: Municipal Agreement for Bicycle Lane Striping (TIP # C-5605E)

Executive Summary

The City of Durham’s Transportation Department has received federal funds for the construction of approximately 8 miles of bicycle facilities. Last year, with \$100,000.00 of local funds, the City utilized the services of Alta Planning + Design, Inc. to develop designs and obtain the necessary environmental documents. This work has been completed and the project is ready to move into the construction phase. It is estimated that a total of \$829,170.00 is needed for the project. The federal funding amount is \$663,336.00, requiring a local match of \$165,834.00 from the City. To utilize the federal funds, the City Council must approve a CIP Ordinance Amendment and a resolution accepting the funds and authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).

Recommendation

The Administration recommends that City Council,

1. Authorize the City Manager to accept the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) grant for the Bicycle Lane Striping project (C-5605E) by executing the grant documents;
2. Adopt a grant project ordinance to accept project related federal grant funding in the amount of \$663,336.00 from the NCDOT; and
3. Adopt an ordinance amending the General Capital Improvement Project Ordinance, Fiscal Year 2018-19, as amended, the same being Ordinance #15327, for the purpose of receiving additional federal funds in the amount of \$663,336.00 to the Bicycle Lane Striping project (LC412), as well as an additional \$65,034.00 of local funding to the \$100,800.00 currently appropriated.

Background

In a survey of residents conducted as part of the Durham Bike + Walk Implementation Plan, adopted in May 2017, the top two actions to encourage more bicycle activity would be more bicycle lanes and better connections between bicycle lanes and trails. An initiative in the City’s Strategic Plan is to create a more walkable and bike friendly community.

The Bike + Walk Implementation Plan identified a number of “priority corridors” in need of bicycle improvements, and the Transportation Department also solicited feedback from the public on identifying additional corridors that could be made safer for bicyclists through restriping. Rather than waiting for these changes to be made through routine resurfacing, the Department applied for CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) funding for construction of approximately 8 miles of bicycle facilities. The final selection of corridors was done after

analyzing cost, connectivity, safety, public engagement, geographic equity, and impact to other road users, as well as ensuring that these corridors were not identified for routine resurfacing in the next 3 years.

After the consultant developed 30% plans, public input was solicited on the proposed designs. Residents and property owners were directly notified through a postcard, and a press release was also issued that advertised a public meeting as well as ways to participate online. The comments from the public, and NCDOT, were incorporated into the final designs. Impacted residents and property owners will be notified again in advance of the project commencing. Despite these efforts, the Department expects there will be some dissatisfaction on the new lane configurations and will work with residents to mitigate their concerns.

Issues and Analysis:

Public Engagement: There were multiple opportunities for the public to engage on the selection and design of these corridors. In January 2018, recommendations for corridors were solicited online, generating 96 responses. These were reviewed and, where feasible, incorporated into the list of chosen corridors. The list and map of chosen corridors was put online, and presented to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission. Once 30% designs were developed for each corridor, a public meeting was held in September 2018 to share the preliminary designs. A postcard was mailed to each resident that lives or owns property on one of the corridors, advertising the meeting and informing them of proposed changes to the roadway. 31 people attended the meeting and provided written and verbal comments. An online survey was also developed for each corridor, generating an additional 110 comments. Those living along the corridor will be notified again before the restriping work begins, and we anticipate some level of disapproval and dissatisfaction.

Project Timeline: The federal funding associated with this project will be rescinded if the project is not authorized for construction by September 30, 2019. Any delay due to redesign or replacement of a corridor could jeopardize meeting the federal funding deadline.

Road Impacts: The modification of lane lines will, in some instances, require removing the existing thermoplastic through grinding before restriping the road with the new design. While effort was made to minimize the amount of grinding that needs to occur, there will be a negative impact to the condition of the road.

Alternatives

The Durham City Council could decide to:

- Approve the recommended resolution and CIP Ordinance Amendment; or,
- Send the item back to staff for further review; or,
- Not approve the resolution and CIP Ordinance Amendment.

Financial Impacts

This project requires acceptance of federal CMAQ grant funding in the amount of \$663,336.00. These federal funds require a minimum local match of \$165,834.00. There is currently \$100,800.00 available in the CIP fund (LC412), and the proposed amendment adds the additional \$65,034.00. The administration of the project will require a commitment of staff resources.

UBE Summary

The municipal agreements with NCDOT require that their procedures be followed for these projects. The Department of Equal Opportunity/Equity Assurance did not review this item for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Grant Ordinance

Attachment B – NCDOT Grant Agreement for Project C-5605E

Attachment C – Map of Corridors

Attachment D – General Fund CIP Ordinance Amendment